

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 05441 011625Z

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8577

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: LOCUST OUTBREAK MALI/MAURITANIA BORDER

REF: A) STATE 206450 B) DAKAR 5314

ROME FOR FOODAG

1) OCLALAV DIRECTOR GENERAL ABDALLAHI CONVENED MEETING
9/24 TO DESCRIBE IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT LOCUST OUTBREAKS IN
SENEGAL, MAURITANIA AND MALI AND TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM
DONOR ORGANIZATIONS: COUNTRIES TO HELP CURTAIL CROP DAMAGE
CAUSED BY OUTBREAK. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF
GIRM EMBASSY DAKAR, FAC, CIDA (CANADA), FAO AND AID.

2) IN CASE PRESENTATION ABDALLAHI STATED THAT TO DATE
APPROXIMATELY 200,000 HECTARES CULTIVATED FIELDS
MENACED BY LOCAL VARIETY LOCUST (SAUTERIAUX): MALI -
80,000 HA; NIGER -35,000 HA; MAURITANIA -60,000 HA;
DAHOMY -15,000 HA; SENEGAL -10,000 HA. LOCUSTS ARE
DISTRIBUTED HORIZONTALLY IN BAND BETWEEN 15TH TO
17TH PARALLELS IN WEST AND 10TH TO 14TH NEAR TCHAD.
WHILE INFESTATION IS GENERAL THROUGHOUT BAND; HEAVY
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 05441 011625Z

CONCENTRATIONS OF LOCUSTS HAVE OCCURRED IN CERTAIN
AREAS. TENDENCY OF PAST YEARS HAS BEEN FOR THESE

CONCENTRATIONS TO MOVE TO RIVER VALLEYS TOWARDS END OF RAINY SEASON, THUS DAMAGING RAIN FED CROPS AS WELL AS CROPS PLANTED BEHIND RECEDING RIVER WATERS.

3. ABDALLAHI OUTLINED EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR TREATING 40,000 HA IN SENEGAL, MAURITANIA AND MALI PRINCIPALLY IN KARAKORO, TEREKOLLE AND SENEGAL RIVER VALLEYS. OCLALAV HAS USED 4,000 LITERS FENITROTHION AND 1,000 LITERS HCH LIQUID 15 PER CENT OF OWN STOCKS RESERVED FOR REGULAR MIGRATORY LOCUST PROGRAMS, TO HELP IN EMERGENCY PROGRAM. IN ADDITION THEY NEED 50 TONS HCH POWDER 25 PERCENT AND 10 TONS DDT POWDER 75 PERCENT WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED LOCALLY FOR ESTIMATED DOLS 50,000. TRANSPORT INSECTICIDES ESTIMATED TO COST DOLS 2,200 BY PLANE, 900 BY TRAIN AND 3,000 BY VEHICLE. RENTING OF ADDITIONAL PLANE FOR 50 HOURS FOR TREATMENT IS ESTIMATED TO COST DOLS 8,400. TOTAL APPROXIMATE COST EMERGENCY PROGRAM IS DOLS 65,000. PROGRAM HAS BEGUN AS REPORTED REFTEL B BUT OPERATIONS WILL BE CURTAILED UNLESS ADDITIONAL FINANCING BECOMES AVAILABLE.

4. SHORT-TERM PROGRAM AS OUTLINED BY OCLALAV WOULD STOCK PLANT PROTECTION SERVICES IN AFFECTED COUNTRIES (SENEGAL, TCHAD, MALI, NIGER, DAHOMEY AND MAURITANIA) WITH SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF FENITROTHION 50 PERCENT AND HCH POWDER 25 PERCENT TO CONTROL OUTBREAKS SHOULD THEY OCCUR NEXT YEAR. INSECTICIDES SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY APRIL 1975 AND BE USED IN REGULAR GOVERNMENT PLANT PROTECTION PROGRAMS. ESTIMATED COST SHORT-TERM PROGRAM IS DOLS 362,000. SIMILAR PLAN FOR THIS CROP YEAR WAS SUBMITTED TO CILLS CONFERENCE IN OUAGADOUGOU OCTOBER 1973 BUT BECAUSE DROUGHT ASSISTANCE WAS NEGOTIATED BILATERALLY, OCLALAV AS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION NOW AWARE TO WHAT EXTENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DONOR COUNTRIES. IN ANY CASE, ASSISTANCE CLEARLY NOT ENOUGH TO CONTROL THIS YEAR'S OUTBREAKS.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, RDO SAID USAID WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST EMERGENCY PROGRAM BY PAYING COSTS OF TRANSPORT OF 5,000 LITERS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE AIR AND RAIL TRANSPORTATION AND
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PAGE 03 DAKAR 05441 011625Z

COSTS OF POL FOR GROUND TRANSPORT ON BASIS OF DETAILED ESIMATE THESE EXPENDITURES TO BE SUBMITTED BY OCLALAV. (THESE ESTIMATES RECEIVED BY ADO ON 9/27). RDO ALSO INDICATED THE POSSIBLE JOINT NATURE OF THE PROJECT IN VIEW OF FAC'S AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO FINANCE REPLACING THE OCALALV INSECTICIDE STOCKS USED IN EMERGENCY PROGRAM. CIDA REPRESENTATIVE REGRETTED INABILITY RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUEST DUE LACK AVAILABLE FUNDING. FAO REP PROMISED INQUIRE AVAILABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL INSECTICIDES FROM ROME.

6. ADO NOT SATISFIED THAT LOCUST PROBLEM SUFFICIENTLY
WELL DEFINED AT THIS POINT TO PERMIT FURTHER AID
PARTICIPATION BEYOND THAT PLEDGED IN 5 ABOVE. HOWEVER,
BELIEVE THAT OCLALAV COULD USE PLANNING ASSISTANCE FROM
TECHNICIAN WHO WOULD HELP DEFINE PROBLEM AND DESIGN
CONTROL PROGRAMS FOR MEDIUM-TERM.
AGGREY

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